(d) Various storages under construction in the basin would create a live storage capacity of 17 billion cubic metre and storages under consideration would add another 29.5 billion cubic metre of live storage in the basin. The National pcrs-pective for Water Resources Development formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources has a Himalayan River Development Component which envisages construction of storage reservoirs in Ganga basin for transfer of water from surplus to deficit areas. The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies in this regard.

Erosion of River Ganga and Padma

2588. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments are aware of the recommendations of the expert Committee going into the problem relating to erosion of the river Ganga and Padma;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction thereon; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the demand of the Chief Minister of West Bengal on 8th May, 1998 for release of Rs. 139.50 crores in a phased manner in the first four years of the 9th Plan and the construction of two long spurs at 28th and 29th Km. upstream of Farakka Barrage in the Central sector'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) An Expert's Committee constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended short term measures costing Rs. 315 crore and long term measures costing Rs. 612 crores for tackling the problem of erosion in various reaches lying upstream and downstream of the Farakka Barrage in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. The long and short term measures were prioritised and the schemes were allocated between the Centre and the Government of West Bengal based on their respective jurisdiction for providing funds by Planning Commission.

(c) In response to the demand of the Chief-Minister of West Bengal, Planning Commission has decided to sanction an additional central assistance of Rs. thirty crore for the Annual Plan (1998-99) of the State of West Bengal to enable the State undertake few antierosion schemes on priority. Construction of two spurs at 28 km. and 29 km. upstream of Farakka Barrage has been given priority under short term measures in the Expert's Committee's recommendations for providing funds by the Planning Commission in the Central Sector.

पश्चिमी बंगाल में पानी में संखिया का विद्यमान होना

2589.**प्रो विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा**: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि**:**

(क) क्या पश्चिमी बंगाल के अनेक क्षेत्रों में भूमि में संखिया होने के कारण जल में संखिया के तत्व पाए गए हैं**;**

(ख) क्या इससे अनेक व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई है और अनेक व्यक्ति बीमार हुए हैं;और

(ख) इसे रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): -(क) जी हां । पश्चिमी बंगाल के आठ जिलों अर्थात (1) मुर्शिदाबाद,(2) माल्दा(3) नादिया (4) उत्तर 24 परगना(5) दक्षिण 24 परगना(6) हावड़ा(7) हुगली और (8) वर्धमान के भूजल में 0.05 मि.ग्रा./लीटर से अधिक सांखिया की मात्रा पायी गयी है । सांखिया की उत्पति भूवैज्ञानिक हैं ।

(ख) सांखिया संदूषण के कारण उत्पन्न बीमारियों से बहुत से लोग पीड़ित हैं । तथापि,केन्द्र सरकार संखिया संदूषण के प्रभाव के कारण हुई किसी मृत्यु का आंकड़ा नहीं रखती हैं ।